

DIVISION OF BEHAVIOR HEALTH AND RECOVERY
OFFICE OF PROGRAM SERVICES
PROGRAM PROFILE

Synar Regulation

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Who Can I Contact At DASA For More Information?

Primary Contact Information:

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Alternate Contact Information

What Is The Program Description?

The Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) block grant requires that states focus on reducing youth access to tobacco products through retail outlets. The federally established Synar Amendment requires that states not exceed a maximum 20 percent non-compliance as measured through random unannounced compliance inspections/checks. The Division of Behavior Health and Recovery (DBHR) coordinates with two other state agencies, Department of Health (DOH) and Liquor Control Board (LCB), to implement youth tobacco compliance checks that meet the Synar regulations established by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration /Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

The Department of Health generates a randomized list of tobacco retailers to be inspected, based on information received from the Department of Licensing. DOH then contracts with local health districts to organize and conduct the compliance checks. All local health jurisdictions are responsible for conducting the Synar compliance checks assigned to them through the statewide sampling, based on DOH contracting guidelines. That means they use existing resources to either conduct the compliance checks or contract with an outside agency to have them done using existing resources. Historically, in special cases, DOH has contracted with outside organizations to provide Synar checks in those counties that did not want to implement their own compliance checks.

DOH provides the technical assistance and protocol concerning the inspections; the LCB provides enforcement follow-up to those retail outlets that have violated the law. DOH uses the collected information to establish the annual state compliance rate. DBHR then reports the information to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as Attachment VI of the block grant application. States that exceed the maximum non-compliance rate face financial sanctions from CSAP that total up to 40 percent of the total SAPT block grant allocation.

What Populations Are Served/Who Is Eligible For These Services?

N/A

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How Many People Are Served During The Biennium?

Synar compliance checks are conducted annually between January and June. Typically compliance checks are implemented in each of the state's 39 counties. In 2009, 511 tobacco retail outlets were inspected. Of that 511, 8.9 percent sold tobacco products to youth during the compliance checks rendering the Washington State compliance rate of 91.1 percent.

What Is The Biennial Funding Amount and Source(s)?

SAMHSA and CSAP require that SAPT Block Grant recipients conduct a Sampling Frame Coverage Study every three years, in relation to the tobacco retail outlets statewide. In 2007, the DBHR contracted with the Edward R. Murrow School of Communication, through the Washington State University, for \$29,018 to conduct the study. It is anticipated that the cost of the coverage study will be approximately \$25,000.00 in 2010.

What Would Be The Impact If This Program Was No Longer Available?

Both the Synar compliance checks and the Sampling Frame Coverage Study are federal block grant reporting requirements: without this information – and without the state being in compliance with the Synar regulation – the federal block grant could be in jeopardy.

What Agencies Collaborate With Division of Behavior Health and Recovery To Deliver These Services?

As detailed above, DOH and LCB collaborate in this project.

What Are The Sources For Program Data or More Information?

Any Other Comments?

The Annual Synar Report is available on the DBHR website at:
<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/HRSA/DASA/FFY2010ASR.pdf>